

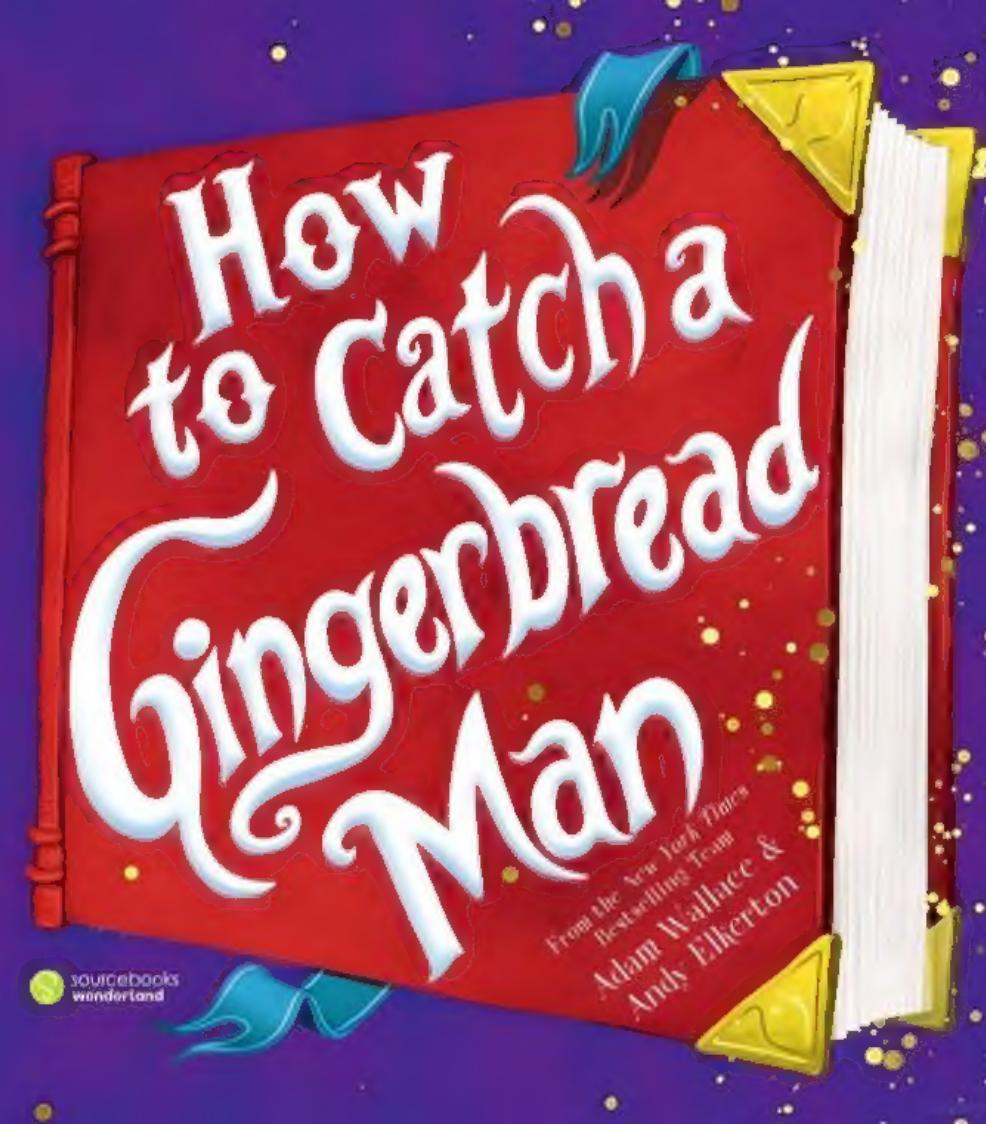
How to Catch a Gingerbread Man

From the New York Times
Bestselling Team
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Once upon a **Story time**
at the bookstore down the street,
some friends come in to have some fun—
they're in for quite a treat!





Sitting at the story rug
with a special book in hand,
the reading is about to begin
about me, the **Gingerbread Man**...





"Run, run, as fast as you can,"
the storyteller starts to read.

So out I pop, right off the page
and break away with **speed!**

You kids will never catch me—
I'm much too fast for you!

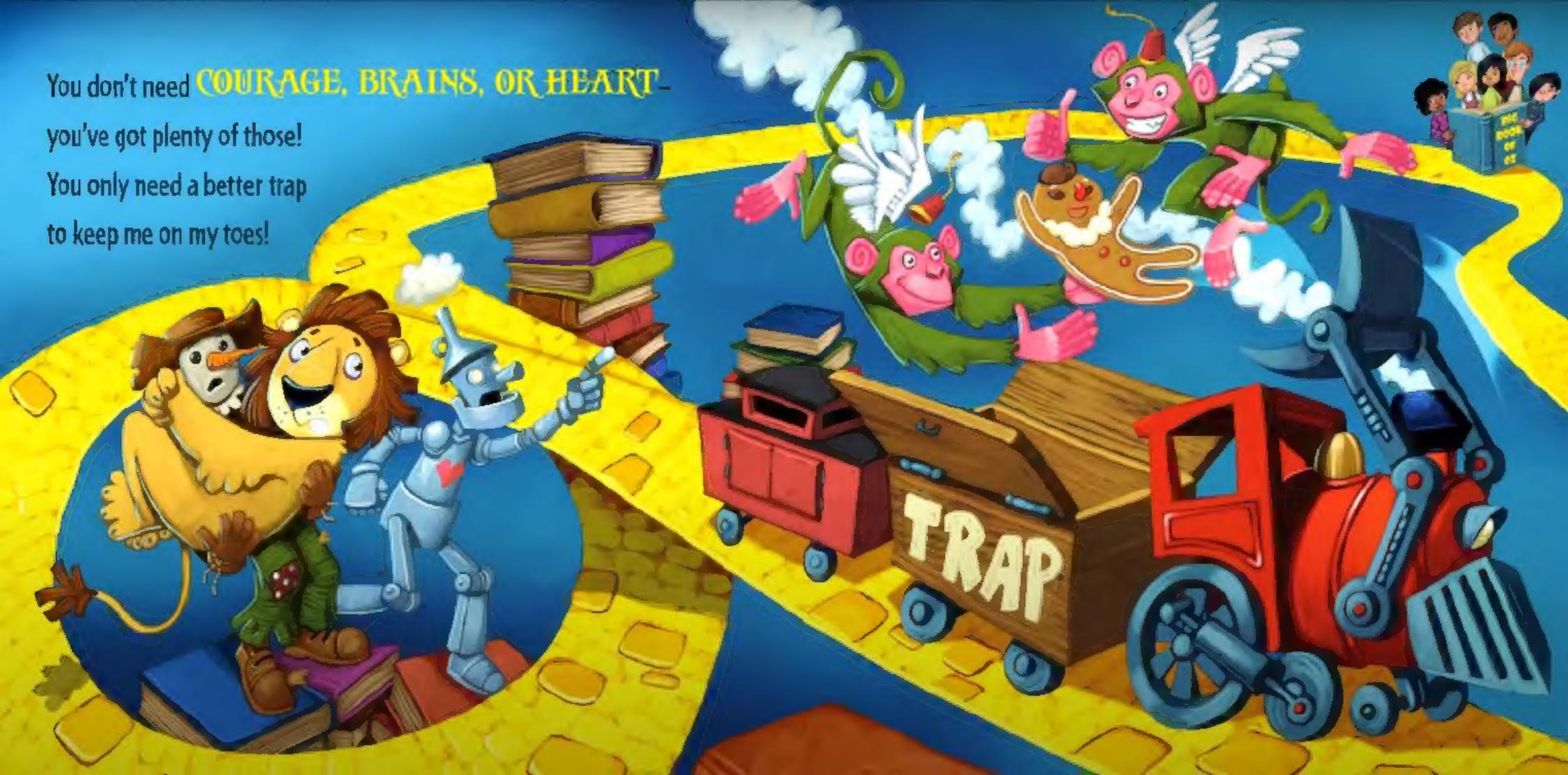


Especially when I have help
from the boy who never grew!

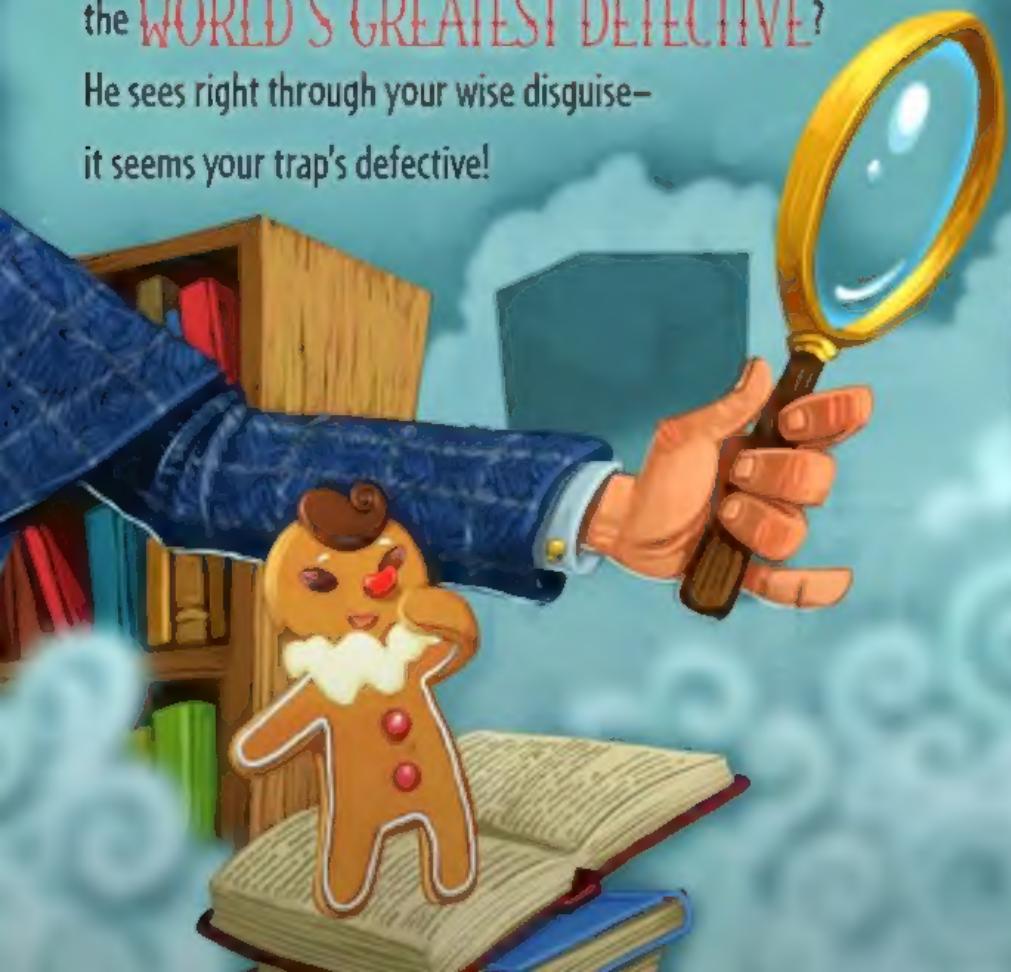
This clever trap won't do the trick—
you need a **magic spell!**
And with a wizard on my side,
your traps won't do so well.



You don't need COURAGE, BRAINS, OR HEART—
you've got plenty of those!
You only need a better trap
to keep me on my toes!



You thought this trap would really fool
the **WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE**?
He sees right through your wise disguise—
it seems your trap's defective!





Now your traps are getting better,
I admit, I am impressed.

WANG!

But **Robin Hood** just saved the day.
I think he's just the best!



STICKY
FROSTING
FOREST

Frosting

HOLIDAY
PAPER
SALE

A bow tie, buttons, even pants!?

This place has everything!

Big shiny belts I can swing
on, and the prettiest

shirts with the prettiest





What a big trap you had here!
The better to catch me with, I think.
Too bad my friends helped me escape—
I'm up and gone in a **DINK!**

The illustration depicts a scene from a fairytale. On the left, a large, multi-colored wolf (blue, red, yellow) with a wide-open mouth and sharp teeth is looking surprised. In the center, a woman in a green dress and a white hat looks shocked. To her right, a man in a blue coat and a top hat is leaning forward, holding a long wooden pole with a hook at the end, which is stuck into the ground. He appears to be pulling or pushing something. The background is filled with autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red. The overall style is a vibrant, hand-drawn illustration.



This trap you set was no big deal.
It's broken now, but how?



Perhaps the boy with [redacted]
saved me with his cow...



Alice and her **mad-hat** friends,
as a gift for my unbirthday,
helped guide me through the walls of shelves—
now I'm *bound* to find my way.



What a great day! I'm having fun—
you youngsters sure are bright!
But have you given up on me?
There's not a **TRAP** in sight...





I've won again! And I must say,
this trap wasn't half-bad.

But as I take my **victory lap**,
I notice you look sad...

I may be free, but now I want
to see your smiles and laughter!
So back I go to give this tale
a **happily ever after...**





Run, run as fast as you can.
Can you catch me?
I'm the Gingerbread Man!

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Art by Matt Wilson

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*When the storyteller starts to read,
"Run, run, as fast as you can,"
I'm off in a start, and you'll have to be smart
to catch me, the Gingerbread Man!*

